

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 CU-02 AGR-05 DOTE-00

HEW-02 HUD-01 INT-05 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 OES-03

SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 IOE-00 /120 W

----- 041075

O R 251111Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4782

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV ESCAP EXWA EG

SUBJECT: ECA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HABITAT, CAIRO JUNE 21-26

REF: STATE 147838; STATE 142524; CAIRO 6194

1. INFORMAL WORKING GROUP (DRAFTING COMMITTEE) HEADED BY ALGERIA AND INCLUDING ZAIRE, KENYA, IVORY COAST, MALI, SENEGAL, EGYPT AND GHANA, SUBMITTED REPORT EVENING JUNE 24 WHICH INITIALLY CONTAINED STRONG STATEMENT CRITICIZING ISRAEL, S AFRICA AND RHODESIA AND DECLARING CONFERENCE SYSTEMATICALLY OPPOSES ANY SORT OF PARTICIPATION OR ATTEMP
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AT PARTICIPATION BY THESE STATES IN VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. IN

PRESENTATION OF REPORT IN PLENARY BY HEAD OF ALGERIAN DEL, HOWEVER, WHEN CONTENTIOUS ITEM WAS REACHED, HE PAUSED TO INDICATE THAT THERE HAD BEEN DISAGREEMENT OVER PARAS IN QUESTION IN COMMITTEE AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY ITEM WAS BEING READ SOLELY IN HIS CAPACITY REPRESENTING MEMBER STATE OF ECA AND NOT AS SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP.

2. US DEL SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED FROM MEMBER OF KENYAN DEL THAT THERE HAD BEEN VEHEMENT OPPOSITION FROM SEVERAL BLACK AFRICAN STATES TO INCLUSION OF PARAS. HOWEVER, THERE WAS QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP WATERED-DOWN VERSION FROM BEING INCLUDED IN FINAL REPORT. INCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA MADE IT NIGH UNTO IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP.

3. FINAL REPORT HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED AND IT INCLUDES A VERY MUCH BRIEFER, LESS CONDEMNATORY, ALTHOUGH STILL QUITE OBJECTIONABLE PARA, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE 9. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PAST ACTIONS IN DEFIANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION, WHICH ACTIONS ARE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE SPIRIT OF HABITAT, THE CONFERENCE OPPOSES ANY SORT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE HABITAT CONFERENCE BY ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA. END QUOTE.

4. US DEL APPRECIATES INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED STATE 147838. STRUGGLE

WITHIN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT STRATEGY OF ALLOWING AFRICANS TO DEAL WITH SITUATION THEMSELVES HAD SOME VALUE

.
OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION, AND THAT OF BRITISH AND CANADIAN COLLEAGUES, IS THAT WE MADE MORE MILEAGE BY NOT ABUSING OUR OBSERVER STATUS AND ENDEAVORING TO SPEAK TO THIS ISSUE AT AN EARLIER STAGE. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, US DEL PLANS TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY (ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT AS OBSERVERS WE MAY BE ABLE TO DO SO) TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN FINAL PLENARY POINTING OUT THAT PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IS NOT APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DEALING WITH SUCH A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE AS QUESTION OF EXCLUDING MEMBER STATE OF UN FROM A CONFERENCE OPEN OTHERWISE TO ALL MEMBERS. OUR EFFORT WILL BE TO PUT OURSELVES ON RECORD WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT ANTAGONIZING AFRICAN MEMBERS WHO ARE ALREADY UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BY INJECTING IT INTO THEIR ORDERLY AND VERY-MUCH-TO-THE-SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSIONS.

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6. CANADIAN DEL DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE A STATEMENT. DOUGAN FEELS HE HAS INDICATED EMBARRASSMENT THIS ISSUE CAUSES HIS GOVT INFORMALLY TO THOSE PRESENT WHO COUNT. INDEED, FIGHT IN COMMITTEE MAY IN LARGE PART HAVE BEEN RELATED TO PROBLEM ISSUE CREATES FOR VANCOUVER CONFERENCE HOSTS.

7. UK DEL HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO ACT AS OBSERVER ONLY, BUT WE HAVE RAISED WITH THEM MATTER OF THEIR MAKING COMMENT ON ISSUE AS WELL.

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